



HOUSING and SUPPORTIVE SERVICE NETWORK

Providing a Continuum of Care for Vulnerable Populations in Washington County

Wednesday, September 1, 2021 - 8:30 to 10:00 a.m.

Zoom <https://us02web.zoom.us/j/86437839959?pwd=UTYweFhuV0dEZ2hhVDUxUENBVU4xUT09>

Meeting ID: 864 3783 9959, Passcode: 384195; By phone dial (253)215-8782

AGENDA

- I. **INTRODUCTIONS: 8:30 a.m.**
 - Mental Wellness Moments (MWM) are brief daily practices of self-care and wellness.
- II. **MEETING MINUTES: 8:32 a.m.**
 - **Action:** Approve the August 4, 2021 meeting minutes.
- III. **GUEST SPEAKERS: 8:35 a.m.**
 - Tina Kennedy, [Fort Kennedy](#)
Fort Kennedy Day Center and Veteran Resources
- IV. **GENERAL BUSINESS: 8:50 a.m.**
 - Washington County Webpage Redesign – Amanda Garcia-Snell and Highland Edelman
 - Community Connect Modernization and Policy Amendment – Alex Devin
 - 9/9/2021 Special Meeting of the CoC Board to approve Community Connect policy
 - Winter Shelter Program – Alex Devin
 - FY2021 CoC Program Homeless Assistance [Grant Competition](#) – Annette Evans
 - 8/18/2021 HUD released FY2021 CoC Program Notice of Funding Opportunity (NOFO)
 - 8/27/2021 Public Notice for OR-506CoC New Project Request for Proposals (RFP)
 - 10/6/2021 New project presentations and scoring by HSSN Membership
 - 10/8/2021 CoC Board performs Rating and Ranking of Project Applications
 - 11/16/2021 Deadline to submit CoC Program Application to HUD
- V. **ANNOUNCEMENTS: 9:50 a.m.**
- VI. **ADJOURNMENT: 10:00 a.m.**

Next Meeting: Wednesday, October 6, 2021

Guest Speaker(s): Maria Caballero-Rubio and/or Brian Schimmel, [Centro Cultural](#) Shelter Program

The HSSN is open to the public and all are invited to join – see [HSSN](#) website for additional information and past meeting agenda, minutes and handouts. Comments regarding the agenda can be directed to Annette Evans, Homeless Program Manager, at 503-846-4760 or email Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us

HOUSING AND SUPPORTIVE SERVICES NETWORK
Providing a Continuum of Care (CoC) in Washington County
August 4, 2021, 8:30 a.m. (Virtual Meeting)

Mission: Housing and service provider agencies working to bring a broad spectrum of organizations together as partners in the community to perform strategic planning, gaps analysis, prioritize resources needed to provide a continuum of care for individuals and families who are at-risk or experiencing homeless.

ATTENDEES:

Alexander Sheridan, Allie—WC Health and Human Services
Avalos Barrios, Ivan—Community Action Organization
Baca, Melissa—Community Action Organization
Bailey, Lisa—City of Beaverton
Bernard, Kathleen—Good Neighbor Center
Blasco, Martin—WC Cooperative Library Services
Brooks, Simone—City of Hillsboro
Brownell, Amy—Ecumenical Ministries-Second Home
Burnett, Amanda—DVRC
Burnham, Jeff—New Narrative
Caffall, Amanda—The Commons Law Center
Calvin, Mellani—ASSIST Program
Cardwell, Shawn—Forest Grove Foundation
Case, Julie—WC Housing Services
Chavez-Sam, Karmen—APANO
Coburn, Crystal—New Narrative
Coppiano, Zoi—Community Action Organization
Deters, Melia—Community Action Organization
Emrick, Hannah—Boys & Girls Aid
Evans, Annette—WC Housing Services
Farr, Danielle—WC Health and Human Services
Fellger, Vara—WC Housing Services
Ferreira, Rosaisela—Community Action Organization
Fields, Kaylie—Oregon DHS
Fox, Karen—City of Tualatin
Franco, Magali—OHSU-Tuality Alliance
Galian, Katherine—Community Action Organization
Gnant, Brylee—Family Promise of Tualatin Valley
Gonzalez, Miguel—Open Door HousingWorks
Graves, Erika—Just Compassion EWC
Gribbon, Maddy—Metropolitan Public Defender
Hernandez-Garcia, Ana—Oregon DHS
Kachmarek, Hannah—Good Neighbor Center
Lamberger, Katie—Oregon DHS SSP
LeSage, Amy—Cascade AIDS Project
Levin, Sarah
Lloyd, Rhonda—The Salvation Army Veteran & Family Ctr
Ludlam, Mandie—Community Housing Fund
Lukban, Minette—OHSU-Tuality Alliance
Markus, Michelle—Mental Health Assoc of Oregon
Martinez, Omar—City of Hillsboro
Melton, Holly—Community Action Organization
Mercer, Annette—Good Neighbor Center
Merkel, Cole—Here Together Oregon
Money, Rose—Family Promise -Tualatin Valley
Montijo, Jennee—WC Health and Human Services
Mullins, Angela—WC Housing Services
Nazli, Zaki
Nelson, Barbara—US Veteran Family Resource Center
Olive, Shannon—Women First Transition & Referral Center
Oliveira, Pedro, Jr—Good Neighbor Center
Penney, Darcie—DVRC
Perkowski, Kaja—Open Door Counseling Center
Potter, Yvette—WC Disability, Aging & Veteran Services
Reza, Amy—Housing Independence
Rhodes, Barbara—Citizen At-Large
Rogers, Patrick—Community Action Organization
Rostampour, Theresa—Boys & Girls Aid
Ruiz, Roseanna—CPAH Oregon
Salisbury, Susan—Community Action Organization
Schaffner, Sara—Community Action Organization
Schimmel, Brian—Forest Grove Fdn/Centro Cultural
Smith, Gary—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Smith, Mikaila—Providence
Sparr, Nina—US Dept of Veteran Affairs HUD-VASH
Stone, Lyndi—Community Action Organization
Swearingin, Nicole—New Narrative
Tafuya, Erica—Community Action Organization
Taylor, Rowie--DVRC
Trinkle, Jamie—Oregon Law Center
Ulrich, Allison—US Dept of Veteran Affairs
Valencia Aguilar, Mari—WC Office of Community Dev.
Wacan, Jennifer—Community Action Organization
Waltshew, Ivy—Community Action Organization
Williams, Carrie—New Narrative
Williams, Carissa--OHSU
Williams, Natalie—WC Office of Community Development
Williams, Stacy—WC Housing Services
Williamson, Drew—Boys & Girls Aid
Wilson-Coleman, Alisa—Citizen At-large
Youngs, Steven—Bridges to Change

I. INTRODUCTIONS

Mental Health wellness moment observed.

II. APPROVAL OF MEETING MINUTES

Motion: Approve July 7, 2021 meeting minutes.

Action: Pat Rogers

Second: Sarah Levin

Vote: Approved, consensus.

III. GUEST SPEAKERS

Amanda Caffall, The Common Law Center “[Tenant Eviction Defense Program](#)”

Amanda Caffall provided an overview of The Common Law Center, a 501(c)(3) that provides legal services on a sliding scale, free community legal education and practical training for new lawyers (hired out of law school for 2-year period). She noted, the success of their sliding scale model (fees earned from clients last year made up 80% of their operating budget) was conducive to replication, and because the need was so great, especially important for lawyers completing their 2-year residency. The organization also received “Qualified Service Provider” status through the SHS Program and were eligible to receive funding to provide legal services in Washington County.

The right to counsel generally refers to the right of a defendant in a criminal proceeding to have the assistance of a lawyer. That same right does not extend to other proceedings. The lack of access to legal services for households dealing with eviction more likely impacts women and people of color, and in Oregon specifically, where last year only 8% of Oregon tenants had access to a lawyer, contributes to a homelessness rate that is 3.5 times higher than the national average. States and cities that have implemented right-to-counsel programs have, on average, successfully prevented eviction 80% of the time. Such programs are now seeing broad support from across the political spectrum with a February poll finding 75% of Democrats, 71% of Independents and 58% of Republicans in support of a right to counsel for those facing eviction. Such programs could also potentially save millions in public benefit program spending as published in a May 2020 report from Maryland that found a \$6 million investment in a right-to-counsel program could save \$36 million in public benefits supporting those who had become houseless. Oregon currently does not provide a statewide right to counsel for tenants facing eviction, but in the Tri-County area, SHS Program funds have already been used to provide legal services to prevent eviction.

The Tenant Eviction Defense (TED) Program at The Commons Law Center is one of four programs offering free legal help for Oregon tenants (includes the Oregon Law Center, Legal Aid Services of Oregon and the Community Law Project at the Metropolitan Public Defender’s office). Funded by a grant from Oregon Consumer Justice, the TED Program provides free legal services to Tri-County residents going through eviction proceedings and hopes to provide Spanish-speaking lawyers/intake staff to assist non-English speaking clients as well. The CDC’s recent Eviction Order extends eviction protections through submission of a CDC Hardship Declaration to October 3, 2021. Amanda reiterated, the first step in pausing an eviction proceeding was to provide proof (Declaration) that an application for rent assistance had been submitted which provides a 60-day pause in the eviction proceeding. Amanda committed to providing a final version of an infographic listing all programs offering free legal help for eviction defense to Annette to share with agencies.

Annette Evans added, eviction court cases filed in Washington County increased from 28 in June to 81 in July.

Jamie Trinkle shared Oregon Law Center was monitoring court dockets statewide for eviction cases filed to send a letter that included a 1-800 number for them to connect to an attorney. In Washington County they were also working with Community Action Organization (CAO) and Unite Oregon to send out a second mailer in English and Spanish. Bilingual staff and free phone interpretation services were available when people respond to the mailer. CAO was also following up with people who had started, but not completed, a rent assistance application, and to educate them on what to do to prevent the eviction from going forward once they had the declaration. Jamie was also excited about the attention on tenants' rights and encouraged by the new legislation to protect renters.

Upon learning that an individual was facing eviction, at what point should agencies encourage them to seek legal help?

Agencies should encourage individuals to seek help upon learning there was a risk of eviction. The earlier an individual seeks help, the better the chance for an eviction to be paused or stopped. Amanda noted, there were many points throughout the eviction proceedings where helpful legal services could be applied, even after a default judgment had been entered.

How long does the grant provide funding?

The funding was for a 12-month time period to start, but as with their other programs, they hoped to push it toward financial self-sufficiency, possibly using attorney fee provisions in the landlord tenant statute and even taking advantage of contracting opportunities provided by the SHS Program. She was excited about the possibilities if a right to counsel was established in Oregon for tenants facing eviction.

Is there a way for cities to amplify the message that free legal services were available?

Amanda Caffall suggested cities contact Oregon Law Center before making any announcements and offered to check with the other programs to see if cities could publicly share the infographic once it was ready. Jamie Trinkle committed to providing a [tenant-facing flyer](#) that cities could distribute.

IV. GENERAL BUSINESS

A. Report on Metro Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program – Allie Alexander Sheridan

Allie provided a program update on behalf of Alex Devin. The SHS Program had signed contracts with 14 community-based organizations to provide case management services (Bienestar, Bridges to Change, Centro Cultural, Community Action, Easter Seals, Family Promise of Tualatin Valley, Good Neighbor Center, HomePlate Youth Services, IRCO, JOIN, Open Door HousingWorks, Project Homeless Connect, Sequoia Mental Health Services, and Urban League). The program also held a shelter kickoff event last week to talk about shelter plans for the winter shelter system and were in search of sites to house 150 winter shelter beds. The Community Connect re-design team held a meeting series and were currently building out the third phase focusing on long term housing wrap-around supports once individuals were moved into more permanent housing. More focus groups and meetings were scheduled to provide agencies additional opportunities to provide feedback on the phased assessment buildout. Information/questions regarding possible winter shelter locations should be emailed to Alex Devin at alex_devin@co.washington.or.us. Agencies interested in participating in Community Connect focus groups and phased assessment meetings should email Allie Alexander Sheridan at allie_alexandersheridan@co.washington.or.us.

B. 2021/22 Annual Work Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness – Annette Evans

Annette reported a copy of the July 2021 to June 2022 Annual Work Plan for *A Road Home* was provided with the meeting packet. She noted the goals and strategies included in the work plan were similar to those of the previous year and leverages goals and strategies outlined in the Washington County Consolidated Plan and the Supportive Housing Services (SHS) Program Local Implementation Plan. After discussion, a vote was taken.

Motion: Approve 2021/2022 Annual Work Plan for *A Road Home: Community Plan to Prevent and End Homelessness*.

Action: Katherine Galian

Second: Rosemary “Rowie” Taylor

Vote: Approved, consensus.

C. FY2021 CoC Program Homeless Assistance Grant Competition – Annette Evans

Annette reported HUD has not yet released the [FY2021 CoC Program Notice of Funding Available](#) (NOFA) for renewal and new grant projects, although this was anticipated in the coming days/weeks. If the NOFA was released by August 13, the CoC will plan to issue a Request for Proposals (RFP) for new projects shortly thereafter and agency presentations would be tentatively planned for the September 1 HSSN meeting when voting on new projects would occur as well. If the NOFA is released after August 13, new project proposals will be presented at the October HSSN meeting. Any agency/homeless consumer/citizen advocate with a combined attendance of 8 out of 12 HSSN meetings throughout the program year (July 1, 2020 through June 30, 2021) would be eligible to participate in the vote, with one vote allowed per agency. The project scoring results will go before the CoC Board at a special meeting scheduled for September 9 to review the scoring criteria and rate and rank the projects. The timeline would be modified if the NOFA release was delayed, although the sequence of events would remain the same.

Annette shared she had been asked whether new projects could be selected from the SHS Program’s Qualified Provider Agency list.

Previous [NOFA guidance](#) required the CoC to “*demonstrate a transparent process (e.g. communicated in a public manner such) is in place to accept and consider proposals from organization that have not previously received CoC Program funding*” (page 61) with notice requirements mandated to ensure that all of the county is taken into consideration. The SHS Program is focused on providing services within the Metro jurisdictional boundary and as such may exclude agencies outside of that boundary.

V. REPORTS AND PROGRAM UPDATES

Children (Homeless Education Network (HEN)): David Pero dpero@fgsd.k12.or.us

Next Meeting: TBD

No report.

Youth: Drew Williamson dwilliamson@boysandgirlsaid.org

Next Meeting:

Drew reported the subcommittee meeting held yesterday was a good opportunity for the three youth serving agencies (Boys & Girls Aid (BGA), HomePlate Youth Services and Second Home) to build relationships with each other as many McKinney-Vento liaisons were on summer break and didn’t attend. They continue to work on outreach and services to underserved rural populations, specifically in Western Washington County. BGA has been working with Second Home to collaborate and share space at the United Church of Christ (UCC) in Forest Grove on Monday afternoons. So far it has been minimally attended by

youth, but through the youth leadership training being provided by Second Home at the location and additional outreach, they hope the word will spread. They will continue to have a presence even after the leadership training program ends. BGA and other youth serving agencies are working with Corporation for Supportive Housing on the supportive housing needs assessment for transitional age youth and have seen great attendance by six youth over the course of four meetings. The focus has been on increasing opportunities for middle and long-term housing options while also recognizing the continued importance of shelter and drop-in services for that population. The focus will shift with the upcoming meeting to develop a needs assessment for ≤17 population which they hope will have good youth participation as well. Drew was hoping to schedule a “bridge” meeting to bring school liaisons back together before the next quarterly TAY meeting.

Homeless Outreach: Pat Rogers progers@caowash.org

Next Meeting: August 12, 2021 at 9:00 a.m.

Pat reported the group reviews and ensures sufficient geographic coverage by street outreach across the entire county at each meeting. Several service providers who conduct regular street outreach are part of the group as well as officers assigned as liaisons to the homeless community from municipal police departments. Through their collective knowledge, the group is also monitoring locations of encampments to better understand the location and type of encampments that have sprung up and develop a list of the occupants in each camp. The goal was to have all that information readily available to connect them to housing as soon as the modernized Community Connect system was in place. They are also interfacing with a group from Washington County who were monitoring encampments on Clean Water Services or county-owned property in order to respond appropriately to neighborhood complaints. A tool was developed to assess each encampment for health and safety, and services (hand-washing stations, sanitation and trash pickup) were brought into some locations. The goal was to have a better understanding of the dynamics of homeless campers and the behaviors that result, to educate the community on what is going on and report on the work being done to address the issue to ultimately defuse the angst that arises around the issue of homeless camping.

DD Dialogue: Gordon Teifel dearinc@me.com

Annette provided an update on behalf of Gordon Teifel. The Intellectual/Developmental Disabilities Dialogue group has been involved in promoting the leasing opportunities at the The Mary Ann, a City of Beaverton Metro Bond project that started leasing on July 15. They have also become advocates for a co-housing project in St Johns called Our Home at Cathedral Park, a housing model that combines six or seven affordable housing units within a diverse cluster of owners. The project may finish with 31 unit-owners who buy into the co-housing living style. Co-housing is an intentional choice to be neighborly and natural supports for the residents who live close by. Our Home at Cathedral Park adds the inclusion of some persons with I/DD to the housing model. <http://www.ourhomecathedralpark.com/>

Seniors: Yvette Potter Yvette_potter@co.washington.or.us

Yvette reported 48 older adults and with disabilities were identified as homeless. Of those, 31 were between ages 50 - 59 and the remaining 17, were over 60 years of age. None were over 70 years of age. Eight individuals were added to the By-Name List for July. Two aging adults were housed in July and eight were looking for a permanent housing solution and awaiting approval for Housing Choice Vouchers.

Veterans: Gary Smith gareth.smith@va.gov

Next Meeting: August 16, 2021 at 10:30 a.m.

Gary reported they continue to case conference the Veteran By-Name List. The Salvation Army facility on Farmington Road hopes to be awarded a capital grant to turn many of the double rooms into single rooms which would alleviate roommate issues that arise.

HSSN CoC Board: Annette Evans Annette_evans@co.washington.or.us

Next Meeting: August 13 at 8:30 a.m.

Annette reported the CoC Board's August 13 agenda will include a proposal to add a "Culturally Specific Provider Organization" position to the CoC Board and a discussion to amend the rating and ranking policy to support geographic equity through additional points for projects delivering direct services and housing programs outside Metro's jurisdictional boundary. A special meeting was scheduled for September 9 to approve the Community Connect system changes and rating and ranking of new CoC Program projects, pending HUD NOFA release.

Homeless Plan Advisory Committee (HPAC): Annette Evans

Annette_evans@co.washington.or.us

Next Meeting: October 21, 2021 2:30 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.

Annette reported, the HPAC Board at their July 15 meeting, received a legislative update and a presentation on a proposal to align the SHS Program Advisory Committee with the HPAC Board's scope of work. At the October 21 meeting, they will receive an update from a new workgroup (comprised of four HPAC members and four SHS Program Local Implementation Plan members) convened to support a discussion around the HPAC to not only provide oversight for *A Road Home* but also to be the advisory committee for the SHS Program. Jes Larson will be leading the workgroup.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Kaylie Fields of Oregon Department of Human Services announced pandemic EBT benefits (PEBT) for students have started to be issued. If a student's household is currently participating in SNAP, those additional PEBT benefits will be deposited onto the family's Oregon Trail card. Eligible families, not already participating in SNAP will receive a card by mail to the address on file with the school. The cards may look different and were being mailed from South Dakota. Parents or guardians with questions about PEBT could call the hotline, (503) 945-6481 or send an email to ebt.schoolmeals@dhsosha.state.or.us. Also, August emergency allotments for SNAP benefits were approved and scheduled for issuance on August 11, August 31 and September 2. More information was available in the [news release](#). Finally, zero-dollar co-pays was still in place for the Employment Related Daycare Program for families who were certifying or recertifying, through September 30. The extended policy provides a zero-dollar co-pay for a full 12-month certification to those found eligible before September 30. She encouraged any working families in need of child care to apply for this assistance at <https://one.oregon.gov/> or call/come in to the Oregon DHS SSP office.
- Gary Smith announced the veteran "Stand Down" event was scheduled for October 15 at Sunrise Church in Hillsboro. The Salvation Army Veterans & Family Center still have an opening for a full-time Senior Case Manager. For more information or to apply, contact Rhonda at rhonda.lloyd@usw.salvationarmy.org.
- Amy LeSage announced Cascade AIDS Project (CAP) can assist people living with HIV/AIDS who were eligible for emergency rent assistance. Call (503) 223-5907 for intake if not a current CAP client.
- Drew Williamson announced Boys & Girls Aid had two full-time positions available to support youth in their Safe Place shelter. Anyone interested in working with youth could contact Drew at dwilliamson@boysandgirlsaid.org or apply online at <https://boysandgirlsaid.applicantpool.com/jobs/>.
- Mari Valencia Aguilar announced Washington County's Office of Community Development (OCD) will be conducting the CDBG and HOME Application Workshops for the 2022 funding year (July 1, 2022 through June 30, 2023). Staff will provide a training on the online application and review new policies for CDBG public facility, infrastructure, and public service projects & HOME development projects. Attendance at the workshops

was MANDATORY for all program applicants. Space is by reservation only, Lauren_thomas@co.washington.or.us.

- Rowie Taylor announced October was Domestic Violence Awareness Month and the Washington County District Attorney's Office was coordinating efforts. She will provide updates as she learns more.
- Annette announced the future HSSN meeting virtual v. face-to-face format discussion was postponed due to COVID cases increasing. This topic will be added to a future HSSN agenda as COVID declines in our region.
- Annette also shared the CoC Board received a presentation by the Joint Office of Homeless Services (JOHS) on creating a new tri-county HMIS implementation at their April 9 meeting. This was followed by a subcommittee meeting on April 28 that highlighted concerns that were sent in a letter to JOHS, and approval to enter into the tri-county HMIS implementation. Tentative implementation is scheduled for April 1, 2022 and updates will be provided throughout the process.
- Annette also shared Washington County was in the process of a website redesign to make web pages more user friendly. A presentation and focus group discussion will be scheduled for the September 1 HSSN meeting.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

The meeting adjourned at 9:41 a.m.

Minutes prepared by Vara Fellger, Washington County Department of Housing Services

To be added to the HSSN email list, contact Annette Evans at Annette_Evans@co.washington.or.us